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attention to the extraordinary size of the summer leaves. Dr. Rusby in the course of his remarks mentioned a very early form which is apparently the variety *cordata* of *Viola cucullata* of Gray. This form has been studied extensively by Miss Sanial, one of the club members.

Dr. Rydberg spoke of the violets of the Rocky Mountain region, passing in review the various species from that section and directing attention to the occurrence of the common European *Viola biflora*, which reappears in Colorado.

Dr. Shull spoke of the difficulty he had experienced in germinating violet seeds, and in the discussion it was brought out that violet seeds are apt to lose their vitality upon drying.

Dr. MacDougal spoke of the difficulties attendant upon mutation experiments with the violets, and advocated experiments to test any possible theories as to hybrids.

After some further discussion by Dr. Britton and others, this most interesting meeting was brought to a close.

EDWARD W. BERRY,
Secretary.

NEWS ITEMS

Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Britton returned from their European trip on July 15.

We are informed that the death of Mr. Henry Eggert of East St. Louis, Illinois, who was well known as a botanical collector, occurred a year ago last April.

Mr. George V. Nash and Mr. Norman Taylor of the New York Botanical Garden sailed on July 6 to spend several weeks in making botanical collections in Haïti.

It is stated in a recent number of *Science* that Frederick C. Newcombe has been appointed professor of botany, and Charles A. Davis curator of the herbarium at the University of Michigan.

It is stated in the *Stanford Alumnus* that Dr. E. B. Copeland, who has been engaged in botanical work in the Philippines for about two years, has resigned his position there and will return to the United States this summer.

Dr. William C. Coker, professor of botany in the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. C. ; Dr. Raymond H. Pond,

professor of botany in the Northwestern University School of Pharmacy, Chicago, Ill.; and Howard J. Banker, professor of biology in De Pauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, are devoting parts of the summer vacation to special studies at the New York Botanical Garden.

Mr. Arthur Woodbury Edson, assistant physiologist, Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, died suddenly at Waco, Texas, on June 23. Mr. Edson was a graduate of the University of Vermont and was appointed a scientific aid in the Bureau of Plant Industry in 1901. He was engaged in experiments in plant-breeding upon cotton in Texas and had already obtained valuable results in the way of producing early ripening varieties which escape the worst ravages of the boll-weevil and possess other desirable qualities.

Botanical visitors in New York since January 20, not already mentioned in TORREYA, include Dr. C. F. Millspaugh, Field Columbian Museum, Chicago; President Ezra Brainerd, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt.; F. V. Coville, C. V. Piper, and William R. Maxon, Washington, D. C.; Dr. R. G. Leavitt, Ames Botanical Laboratory, North Easton, Mass.; Professor E. C. Jeffrey, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.; George E. Osterhout, New Windsor, Colorado; C. G. Pringle, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vt.; W. H. Blanchard, Westminster, Vt.; Dr. G. Hochreutiner, University of Geneva, Switzerland; Dr. Anstruther Davidson, Los Angeles, California; Dr. Clifton D. Howe, Biltmore Forest School, Biltmore, North Carolina; Dr. Otis W. Caldwell, Illinois State Normal School, Charleston, Illinois; Dr. George H. Shull, Station for Experimental Evolution, Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y.; Dr. Forrest Shreve, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; Professor William L. Bray, University of Texas, Austin, Texas; and Professor W. L. Jepson, University of California, Berkeley, California.

At the International Botanical Congress held in Vienna, June 12-17, the American botanists in attendance were Arthur, Atkinson, Barnes, Barnhart, Britton, N. L., Britton, E. G., Brown, E., Campbell, Coville, Duggar, Knoche, Perkins, J., Rehder, Robinson, B. L., Shear, Trelease, Underwood. The deliberations upon

questions of taxonomic nomenclature, which constituted one of the principal ends of the Congress, were carried on under the chairmanship of M. Charles Flahault, director of the botanical institute of Montpellier, France. The consideration of the nomenclature of cryptogams (outside of the Pteridophyta) was referred to a commission to report to the next international congress five years hence. The Congress then proceeded to vote upon various nomenclatorial propositions, following the "Texte Synoptique" arranged and published in advance by Dr. J. Briquet of Geneva, reporter general of the international nomenclature commission. The following *résumé* of the action of the Congress regarding some of the more important principles under discussion has been extracted from a private letter and is subject to official modifications. 1753-1754, as the double initial date for the nomenclature of vascular plants, was approved by a vote of 150 to 19. The proposition to formulate a list of generic names to be preserved regardless of all rules was favored by a vote of 133 to 36 and the preparation of such a list was referred to a committee. The "Kew Rule" principle, involving the maintenance of the first specific name combined with the accepted generic name, was rejected, but with certain exceptions which were regarded as being so much in the nature of a compromise that only two votes were recorded in opposition to the articles that finally prevailed. Duplicate binomials (*e. g.*, *Taraxacum Taraxacum*) were rejected by a vote of 116 to 72. The idea of fixing the application of generic and specific names by the "method of types" advocated in the "American Code" was not accepted, an alternative proposition being approved by a vote of 106 to 74, many of those who voted with the minority favoring some method of "types" for the future without retroactive provisions. By a vote of 105 to 88, it was voted, in substance, that after January 1, 1908, the publication of a new name must be accompanied by a diagnosis in Latin. The actions of the Congress may be said to be, on the whole, rather encouraging to the optimistically inclined who believe that a few more such international congresses at intervals of five years may result in the establishment of a series of rules of nomenclature which shall be tolerably final and stable.